

95182220038

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State  
Minnesota Public Benefit Corporation / Annual Benefit Report  
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 304A



Read the instructions before completing this form  
Must be filed by March 31  
Filing Fee: \$55 for expedited service in-person, \$35 if submitted by mail

The Annual Benefit Report covers the 12 month period ending on December 31 of the previous year.  
Notice: Failure to file this form by March 31 of this year will result in the revocation of the corporation's public benefit status without further notice from the Secretary of State, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 304A.301

Per call  
CB/me

1. Corporate Name: (Required) Solar Honey, ~~SPB~~ SBC

2. The public benefit corporation's board of directors has reviewed and approved this report.

3. In the field below, enter the information required by section 304A.301 subd. 2 or 3 for the period covered by this report, (see instructions for further information): Note: Use additional sheets if needed. (Required)

See attached

4. I, the undersigned, certify that I am the chief executive officer of this public benefit corporation. I further certify that I have signed this document no more than 30 days before the document is delivered to the secretary of state for filing, and that this document is current when signed. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

*Chiara Bolton*

Signature of Public Benefit Corporation's Chief Executive Officer

3/27/18

Date (Must be dated within 30 days before the report is delivered to the Secretary of State for Filing)

Email Address for Official Notices

Enter an email address to which the Secretary of State can forward official notices required by law and other notices:

boltonbees@gmail.com

Check here to have your email address excluded from requests for bulk data, to the extent allowed by Minnesota law.

List a name and daytime phone number of a person who can be contacted about this form:

Chiara Bolton 651-728-1530

Contact Name

Phone Number

Entities that own, lease, or have any financial interest in agricultural land or land capable of being farmed must register with the MN Dept. of Agriculture's Corporate Farm Program.

Does this entity own, lease, or have any financial interest in agricultural land or land capable of being farmed?

Yes  No

Annual Benefit Report  
of  
SolarHoney  
A Minnesota Specific Public Benefit Corporation

March 27, 2018<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Report must be received by the MN SOS by April 1, 2018 so this date should be prior to April 1, 2018. This year April 1 falls on a Sunday, so this report is due no later than March 30, 2018.

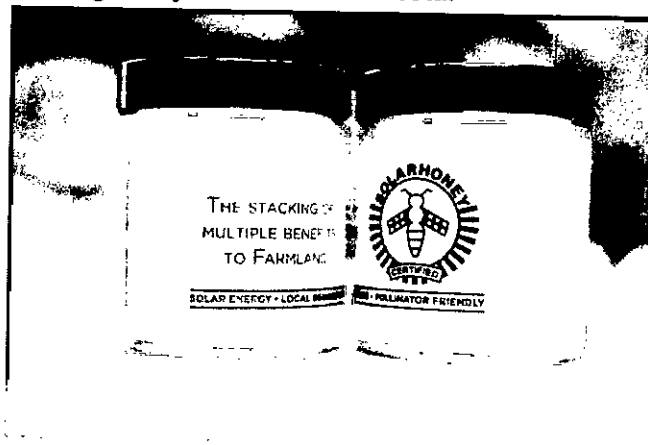


Solar Honey SBC was incorporated on 5/30/2017 as a Specific Benefit Corporation under Minnesota's Public Benefit Corporation Act (the "Act"). Pursuant to Section 304A.101 of the Act, Solar Honey's specific public benefit purpose as stated in its Articles of Incorporation is to promote pollinator-friendly solar gardens and to help establish a national standard for honey produced in solar gardens—SolarHoney.

Throughout this report, Solar Honey SBC will be referred to as The Solar Honey Company or may refer to itself as "SHC", "we", or "our" or "us."

With regard to the period covered by this report, May 30, 2017 to December 31, 2017, SHC pursued the specific public benefit purpose stated in its Articles of Incorporation in the following ways:

- 1) SHC had a total of 45 hives placed on three separate solar developers pollinator-friendly solar arrays. Producing 3,000 pounds of SolarHoney™ (we trademarked the term in 2017). This honey was jarred in custom jars and used as a "hero" ingredient. The SolarHoney is a tangible and edible reminder those who are consuming the honey of pollinator-friendly solar.
  - a. 612 12.5 oz. by weight jars were custom made for Connexus Energy. They gave the honey to their solar subscribers and for local community events.
  - b. 5,000 6oz jars by weight were jarred and have been sold at various events, at local gift shops in MN, and to solar developers throughout the nation.
  - c. SolarHoney has also been used as a hero ingredient for the MN Honey Producers Association's State Fair ice cream. It was both in the ice cream and drizzled on top.
  - d. SolarHoney is being used as a hero ingredient in 56 Brewing's SolarHoney IPA Beer called Solarama Crush. This beer will be on tap at the brewery and it will be sold at 3 Whole Food grocery stores in Minnesota.



2) Some of SHC's press coverage this past year:

**National GeoGraphic**

Beekeepers Sweeten Solar Sites With the 'Tesla of Honey'

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/06/chasing-genius-solar-honey-pollinator-friendly-energy/>

**Martha Stewart**

It's Not Just the Bees and Flowers That Make This Garden Special --Something sweet is happening here.

<http://www.marthastewart.com/1515801/bees-garden-solar-energy-new-good-partnership>

**Al Jazeera**

Solar's Sweet Side

[https://www.facebook.com/ajplusenglish/videos/1076828839125289/?hc\\_ref=ARQtI9dOgtJBM76tMx944gKGpNtgcFe6qqwgOnBJ\\_xiCS4r3j3APMN3I-wmUOPZ7OI](https://www.facebook.com/ajplusenglish/videos/1076828839125289/?hc_ref=ARQtI9dOgtJBM76tMx944gKGpNtgcFe6qqwgOnBJ_xiCS4r3j3APMN3I-wmUOPZ7OI)

**Smithsonian Magazine**

Solar Power and Honey Bees Make a Sweet Combo in Minnesota: The Pollinator Friendly Solar Act has solar companies and commercial beekeepers working together <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/solar-power-and-honey-bees-180964743/>

**EcoWatch**

Turning Solar Sites Into Pollinator-Friendly Habitats Is the Sweetest Idea

<https://www.ecowatch.com/solar-honey-bees-2481799277.html>

**Modern Farmer**

Solar Power and Honey Bees Make a Sweet Combo in Minnesota

<http://modernfarmer.com/2017/09/solar-honey-in-minnesota/>

**Star Tribune**

*Ramsey energy company finds perfect pairing in putting bees, solar panels together*

<http://www.startribune.com/ramsey-energy-company-shoots-for-gooney-gold-beneath-its-solar-array/420790913/>

**Solar Energy Made 'Sweet' at Connexus**

CTN Coon Rapids

<https://youtu.be/PXdleMoFnUk>

### **Pioneer Press**

*Super bees that can survive St. Paul winters? You bee-tcha. This couple breeds 'em.*

<http://www.twincities.com/2017/05/14/st-paul-beekeepers-creating-a-buzz/>

### **Sustainable Brands**

Pollinator-Friendly Solar Arrays in Minnesota Now Commercially Produce Honey

[http://www.sustainablebrands.com/news\\_and\\_views/product\\_innovation/libby\\_maccarthy/pollinator-friendly\\_solar\\_arrays\\_minnesota\\_now\\_com](http://www.sustainablebrands.com/news_and_views/product_innovation/libby_maccarthy/pollinator-friendly_solar_arrays_minnesota_now_com)

### **Solar Power World**

May 2017 issue: The buzz around pollinator friendly solar plants

<http://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2017/05/may-2017-issue-buzz-around-pollinator-friendly-solar-plants/>

- 3) SHC has also received awards this past year from the Minnesota Business Magazine. Throughout the year this magazine nominates Minnesota businesses for achievements in different categories. Business and individuals throughout the state vote on contestants and the winners are then nominated.
  - a. Finalist in the Food Producer category for Most Likely To Succeed.
  - b. Owners, Chiara and Travis Bolton, featured as a “35 and Under Young Entrepreneurs.”
  - c. Winners of the 2018 Community Impact Awards. This award honors businesses, social enterprise organizations, nonprofits, initiatives and individuals making a significant impact on communities in Minnesota. SHC won the Sustainability Award, which recognizes Minnesota for-profit businesses for implementing or supporting programs in the office or beyond that promote sustainability, the environment or the local ecosystem

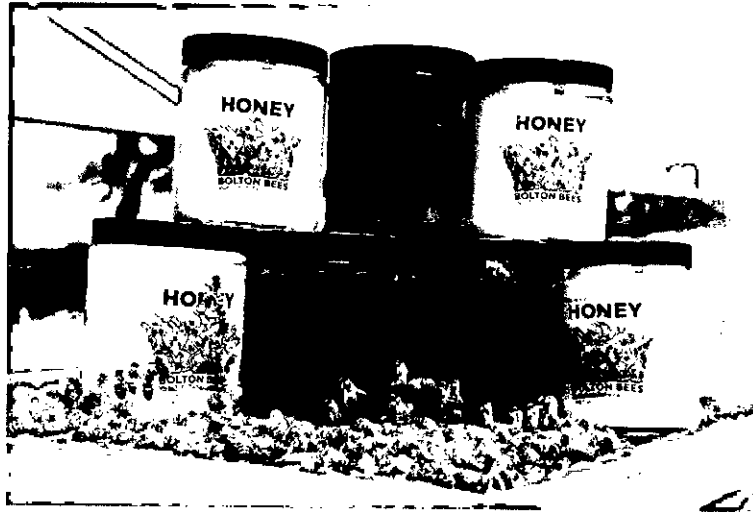
SHC is planning on having 100 hives on pollinator-friendly solar arrays in 2018. Our goal is to continue to have the SolarHoney produced make an impact. The more awareness SolarHoney spreads, the better. By promoting the SolarHoney brand, we will encourage public support of sustainable solar energy and help create healthy habitats for bees and other pollinators.

The creation of pollinator habitat is important because:

Finding healthy habitat for bees can be a challenge. Providing pollinator friendly habitat is one of the most significant actions that can be taken to support pollinators. The bees will collect pollen and nectar from resources within a three-mile radius of the hives to use as food. The more available healthier options (vs heavily managed conventional farming) that bees have, the more productive and healthier they will be. Unfortunately, bees are dying at an alarming rate<sup>1</sup> for a variety of factors, including lack of healthy habitat. The Federal Pollinator Protection plan established a goal of 7 million new acres of pollinator habitat—an “all hands on deck” moment for organizations to create healthy habitat.

In May 2013, the Minnesota legislature adopted a mandate on investor-owned utilities that requires them to produce 1.5% of their electricity from solar power by 2020. Tens of thousands of acres of solar sites will be built in the region over the next three years—typically, with turf grass or gravel under the panels.

Our partnership with solar developers is promoting the use of land underneath the panels. By planting the land pollinator-friendly, solar developers are creating habitat for all pollinators. This is important because bee pollination is vital to agriculture—contributing >\$19 billion annually.



Solar Honey's mission is to promote the productive use of land under and around ground-mounted solar panels. We believe that there is a better way: planting pollinator-friendly solar and co-locating beehives. Solar Honey ensures the productive use of farmland by stacking multiple benefits — clean solar energy, pollinator-friendly habitat, and local beekeeping — into each site. This tri-fecta only has positive repercussions.

SolarHoney™ standard encourages the creation of new foraging habitat under and around ground-mounted solar panels for a wide variety of pollinators, birds, and other wildlife.

The Board of Directors have reviewed and approved the enclosed Annual Benefit Report.

I, the undersigned, certify that I am the Chief Executive Officer of this public benefit corporation. I further certify that I have signed this document no more than 30 days before the document is delivered to the secretary of state for filing, and that this document is current when signed. I further certify that I have provided all required information and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Chiara Bolton, Owner  
March, 27 2018



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STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
FILED  
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*Steve Simon*

Steve Simon  
Secretary of State